

A new species of *Neoardelio* Hendel (Diptera: Platystomatidae) from Zimbabwe

by

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Neoardelio inyangani spec. nov. is described and figured from Mt. Inyangani, eastern Zimbabwe.

Six species are currently placed in the genus *Neoardelio* Hendel (Steyskal 1980). Of these, three (*N. alternatus* (Walker), *N. lineatocollis* (Thomson), *N. longiala* Steyskal) occur in the Cape Province of South Africa, one (*N. retifrons* Steyskal) occurs in the mountains of Lesotho and two (*N. brevicornis* (Loew), *N. longipennis* (Loew)) are *nomina nuda* described from 'Africa', in all probability South Africa.

The new species described below represents the first confirmed record outside South Africa of a genus previously considered to be endemic to that region (Steyskal 1960). It occurs on Mt. Inyangani, the highest peak in eastern Zimbabwe.

Neoardelio inyangani spec. nov., Fig. 1

This new species can be separated from the other recognized species in the genus by having pale pruinose lines on the thorax, a slight upper apical projection to the third antennal segment, a pitted frons and wings with a fuscous spot posteriad of the last section of the fourth vein.

MALE. Length of wing, 3.50 mm. Colour generally black except yellowish basal two segments of tarsi and antennae and dark brown lower part of head. Abdomen with a greenish sheen.

Head. Height:width:depth::1.45:1.5:1. Frons 0.42 times width of head, slightly narrower anteriorly. Cheeks 0.43 times height of eye. Antennae extending 0.85 of distance from sockets to oral margin, third segment oval, 1.6 times as long as broad, produced at upper apex into a small rounded projection; all segments yellowish-brown except upper margin of third segment fuscous; arista bare. Lunule semicircular, with a few minute setae, not covered by frons. Face concave, antennal grooves shallow, pruinose. Facial, frontal and occipital orbits narrowly greyish-white pruinose, as is a broad stripe from occipital orbits to the genal angle. Parafacials smooth, cheeks in lower half with a few pits; genal angle yellowish. Frons greyish-pruinose, broken into a reticulate pattern by numerous non-pruinose oval pits, each with a small black bristle. Palpi dark brown, 2.5 times as long as wide. Bristles as follows: one pair each of inner and outer *vt*, of equal length; one pair of *fo* (at level of anterior edge of posterior ocelli), about half length of verticals; a row of *oc*, small and hair-like; no genal bristle.

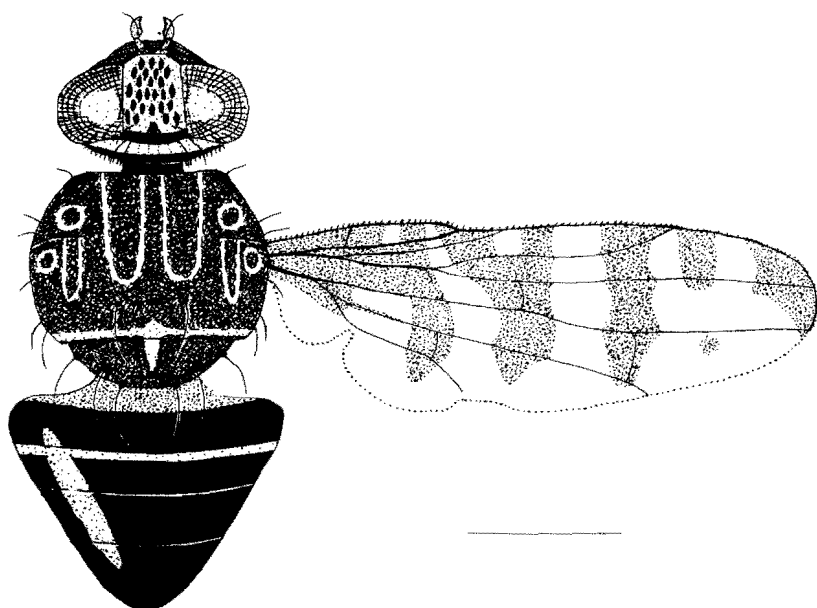


Fig. 1. *Neoardelio inyangani* spec. nov., holotype male. (Scale line = 1 mm.)

Thorax. Dorsum with numerous tiny pits at bases of hairs and with lines of greyish-white pruinosity delimiting a pair of elongate-oval areas from anterior margin to 0.8 of distance to scutellum, a pair of similar areas extending from transverse suture backwards to inner postalar bristles, a pair of circular areas in the lateral presutural regions, a similar pair anterior to the supra-alar bristles and a diffuse transverse patch a short distance anterior to the base of the scutellum, extending onto the scutellum as a median line. Pleura shining, except for light pruinosity on propleura and upper mesopleura. Black bristles as follows: a few ventral mesosternal, one long *m*, one *h*, two *n*, one *sa*, two *pa*, one long *dc*. Scutellum with six bristles, the apical pair nearly twice as long as others, all arising from small tubercles. Mesosternum, lateral margins of prosternum, middle of propleura, upper mesopleura and pteropleura with sparse yellowish hairs.

Wings. As figured. Hyaline with fuscous markings as follows: a broad basal band; a broad median band, crossing upper cross-vein and narrowing posteriorly, with a hyaline costal patch; a narrower band crossing lower cross-vein, which may or may not be united below third vein with a short bar from costa; an apical patch extending to fourth vein; a small spot below middle of last section of fourth vein. Squamae white, with white fringe. Halteres fuscous.

Legs. Shining black except first and second segments of tarsi yellowish. Trochanters and coxae with coarse, yellowish hairs.

Abdomen. Largely shining black with a dull green sheen. Apparent first segment largely greyish-pruinose; remaining segments often with narrow pruinose anterior margins.

FEMALE. Unknown.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. *Holotype* ♂, *paratype* ♂, ZIMBABWE: Mt. Inyangani, 17.xii.1979, D. Taylor. In National Museum, Bulawayo.

DISTRIBUTION. This species has been recorded only from the type locality, Mt. Inyangani, in the Inyanga district of eastern Zimbabwe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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